

California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Program Overview



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CalWORKs: Background**Caseload Highlights**

- ❖ **560,000 Families**
- ❖ **Over One Million Children**
- ❖ **50 Percent Poor Children Served**

What is CalWORKs?

CalWORKs is California's version of the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. The program provides 48 months of cash grants and welfare-to-work services to low-income families with children. Children remain eligible for assistance up to age 18.

Combatting Child Poverty:

CalWORKs serves over one million children in 560,000 cases. CalWORKs provides assistance to 50 percent of children in poverty in California, more than double the comparable national average of 20 percent served by TANF.

Key Features:

- ✓ Cash Grants for Families
- ✓ 48 Months of Cash Assistance and WTW Services
- ✓ 24 Months of Flexible Work Activities
- ✓ Participation Requirements
- ✓ Safety Net for Children
- ✓ Subsidized Employment Opportunities
- ✓ County Flexibility to Design WTW Program
- ✓ Time Limits
- ✓ Holistic Appraisal of Basic Needs and Barriers
- ✓ Immediate Needs Intervention
- ✓ Cash Bonuses for Teen Academic Success
- ✓ Earnings Disregard
- ✓ Child Care/Supportive Services
- ✓ Substance Abuse, Mental Health and Domestic Violence Services
- ✓ Homelessness Assistance
- ✓ Exemptions from Time Clock and Participation
- ✓ Federal Work Participation Mandates and Penalties

CalWORKs: Background (continued)

Total Funding in CalWORKs Program (SFY 2013-14): **\$5.3 Billion**

TANF Block Grant	\$2.6 Billion
Maintenance of Effort (includes county funds)	\$2.0 Billion
Other Funds (Non-MOE General Fund, Title XX)	\$0.6 Billion

Caseload Components

CalWORKs Caseload Breakdown			
	Case Type	RADEP Cases	Percent
	Aided Adult (WTW Participant)	151,350	27.0%
	Aided Adult (All Other Exempt)	56,456	10.1%
	Aided Adult (Young Child Exempt)	34,025	6.1%
	Sanctioned	41,703	7.4%
	<i>Welfare-to-Work Subtotal</i>	283,534	50.6%
	Other Child Only	202,926	36.2%
	Safety Net	73,993	13.2%
	CalWORKs Total	560,453	100.0%

DATA: FFY 2013 RADEP Sample and WDTIP Extract

CalWORKs Caseload and Grants with CalFresh Benefits

Recent History and Projections

(FY 2007-08 through FY 2014-15)

Fiscal Year	Average Monthly CalWORKs Cases	Average CalWORKs Grants	MAP for AU of 3 Region 1 ¹	CalFresh MCA for HH of 3 ²
2007-08	465,951	\$ 537.70	\$ 723	\$ 426
2008-09	504,994	\$ 540.61	\$ 723	\$ 463
2009-10	553,347	\$ 514.49	\$ 694	\$ 526
2010-11	586,659	\$ 517.36	\$ 694	\$ 526
2011-12	575,988	\$ 466.31	\$ 638	\$ 526
2012-13	559,920	\$ 464.75	\$ 638	\$ 526
2013-14 ³	545,647	\$ 469.24	\$ 670	\$ 526
2014-15 ³	529,367	\$ 480.28	\$ 670	\$ 497

¹ California's grant levels are divided into two regions. This chart reflects the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) for an Assistance Unit (AU) of 3 in Region 1 Counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Marin, Monterey, Napa, Orange, San Diego, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma and Ventura.

² CalFresh benefit amounts are based on a Federal Fiscal Year (October-September) versus the State Fiscal Year (June-July). The FY 2014-15 CalFresh benefit amount is based on the FFY 2014 household (HH) Maximum CalFresh Allotment (MCA) with an adjustment for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 enhanced benefits expiring in November 2013.

³ Cells below the bolded line represent projections from the 2013 November Estimates. The CalWORKs MAP for an AU of 3 will increase from \$638 to \$670 beginning March 1, 2014.

Online CalWORKs Appraisal Tool (OCAT)

- Standardized statewide WTW appraisal tool.
- CDSS contracting with ICF International (ICF) to customize, deploy, and implement tool (\$1.4 million).
- Customized tool for the State of California will be based on the publicly available Online Work Readiness Assessment (OWRA) tool, developed by ICF for the federal Administration for Children and Families.
- Two phases of customization and testing will occur to assist in the design and implementation of OCAT statewide:
 - Track One – Early Adopter testing of OWRA
 - Track Two – Pilot testing of customized OCAT
- Provides in-depth assessment of client strengths and barriers, including:
 - Employment history, interests, and skills.
 - Educational history and learning disabilities.
 - Housing status and stability.
 - Language barriers.
 - Physical and behavioral health, including, but not limited to, mental health and substance abuse issues.
 - Child health and well-being.
 - Criminal background that may present a barrier to employment or housing stability.
 - Domestic violence.
 - Need for supportive services.
 - Other information that may affect an individual's ability to participate in work activities.

Key Dates

- ❖ **February 25, 2014:** Contract execution date.
- ❖ **March 2014:** Early implementation with OWRA tool began.
- ❖ **March 2014 – July 2014:** Stakeholder meetings to implement and customize OCAT.
- ❖ **July 2014:** Pilot testing begins.
- ❖ **September 2014:** Customization of OWRA tool completed.
- ❖ **September 2014:** OCAT available statewide.

Family Stabilization (FS) Program

- To increase client success during the flexible WTW 24-Month Time Clock period by ensuring a basic level of stability:
 - Intensive case management
 - Barrier removal services
- Clients will have a “Stabilization Plan” with no minimum hourly participation requirements, and six months of clock-stopping is available (if good cause is determined).
- For FY 2013-14, \$10.8 million was allocated to counties for FS. For FY 2014-15, \$26 million has been estimated in the Governor’s Budget.
- Counties have flexibility to determine the services that will be provided and individual program components in order to best meet the needs of each county and the clients the county serves.

Key Dates

- ❖ **November 27, 2013:** FS allocation to counties.
- ❖ **February 4, 2014:** Implementation guidelines and expenditure claiming instructions released.
- ❖ **March 2014:** Counties to submit FS plans and release of the FS Request and Determination forms.
- ❖ **April 2014:** Release of draft FS Data Reporting Form.

Summary of Family Stabilization Plans Received*		
Total number of FS Plans received as of April 22, 2014: 49		
Services	# of Counties	Examples
Homelessness	33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitional housing • Emergency homeless assistance/shelter • Relocation assistance • Subsidized rent
Mental Health	46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-locating staff • Multi-disciplinary team • Partner with county behavioral health department • Specialized units • Rehabilitative services • Children’s mental health services
Substance Abuse	46	
Domestic Abuse	46	
Weekly Client Contact	42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home visits • Phone calls
Other		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWS Linkages • Families • Life skills workshops • Legal Services • Nutrition education • Literacy • Financial Planning

*FS plans will be posted on an ongoing basis on the CDSS website at <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/PG94.htm>.

Guidance ReleasedCFL 13/14-32 *FS Allocation*ACL 14-12 *Implementation Guidance*CFL 13/14-35 *Expenditure Claiming Instructions*

November 2013

February 2014

February 2014

Guidance PendingACL 14-XX *FS Request and Determination Forms*ACL 14-XX *FS Data Reporting Form*

May 2014

July 2014

Expanded Subsidized Employment (ESE)

- Creates job opportunities:
 - Connection to the labor force.
 - Build and improve skills.
- Counties form partnerships:
 - Private employers.
 - Non-profits/public agencies.
- Wages are fully or partially subsidized.
- Benefits the work participation rate (WPR).
- 8,250 new jobs in state fiscal year (SFY) 2014-15:
 - Various levels of employment including many entry level positions.
 - Job experience leading to unsubsidized work and self-sufficiency.
- \$39.3 million allocated in SFY 2013-14 to 57 counties for ESE.
 - One county declined ESE funding for SFY 2013-2014.

Key Dates

- ❖ **July 1, 2013:** Effective date.
- ❖ **September 30, 2013:** Implementation guidelines and allocations released.
- ❖ **SFY 2014-15:** Full implementation anticipated.
- ❖ **April 1, 2015:** Information on outcomes due to the legislature.

County ESE Plans

- Total Plans received as of April 25, 2014: 20
 - Plans posted to CDSS website: 3
 - Plans being prepared for posting: 17
- Plans reflect a wide range of public and private placements.
- Link to ESE Plans on the CDSS website: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/calworks/PG3412.htm>.

Evaluation and Reporting

- Electronic county data reporting process begins spring 2014 for SFY 2013-14.
 - Number of CalWORKs recipients who entered subsidized employment.
 - Number of CalWORKs recipients who find unsubsidized employment.
 - Earnings of the program participants before and after the subsidy.
 - Impact on WPR.
- Information on outcomes is due to the legislature no later than April 1, 2015.

Guidance Released

ACL 13-81 *ESE Program Implementation*
 CFL 13/14-22 *Claiming for the ESE Program*
 CFL 13/14-23 *County Allocations for the ESE Program*

September 2013
 September 2013
 September 2013

Guidance Pending

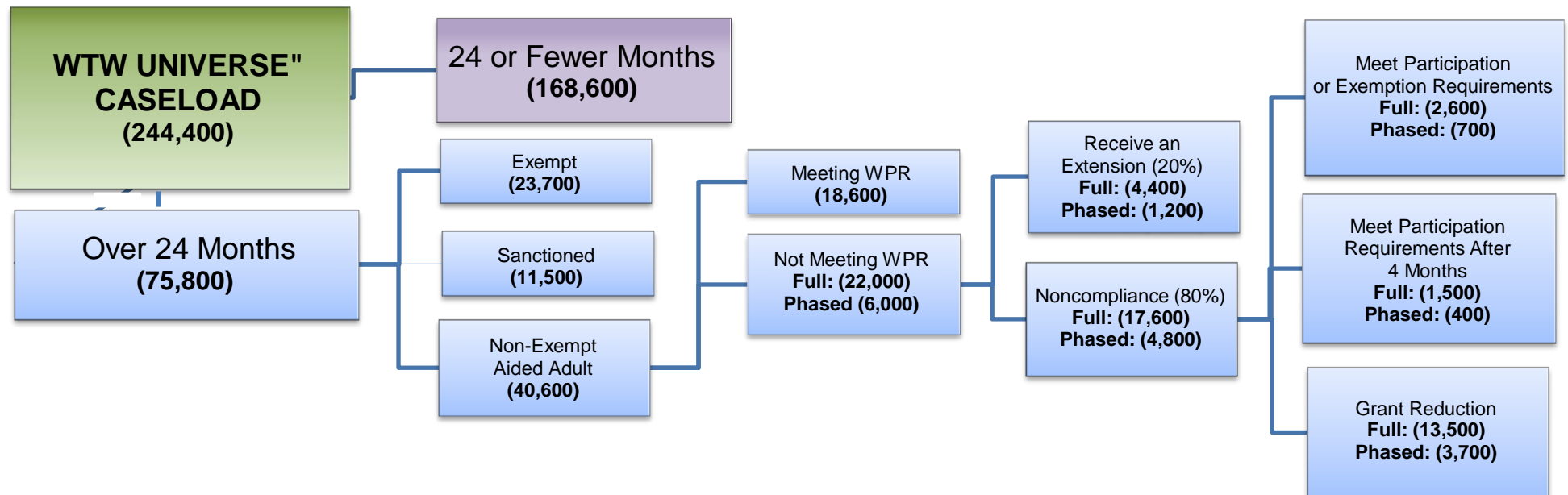
ACL 14-17 *ESE Data Reporting Guidelines*
 CFL 13/14-XX *Base Funding Requirement*
 ACL 14-XX *Questions and Answers*
 CFL 13/14-XX *Operational Costs*

May 2014
 May 2014
 June 2014
 June 2014

Welfare-to-Work 24 Month Clock Impact

Caseload Flow Chart for FY 2015-16 (Based on RADEP 2012 and WDTIP data.)

This estimate does NOT include the potential effectiveness of Expanded Subsidized Employment, more robust appraisal, or family stabilization services to remove barriers to self-sufficiency. Further, there is no historical data on the WTW 24-Month Clock to fully develop this estimate; therefore, the caseload estimates are based on CDSS preliminary best assumptions of behavioral changes and are subject to change.

**FY 2015-16 Monthly Phase In of Post WTW 24-Month Grant Reduction Caseload (Rounded for Display Purposes)**

July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	FY 2015-16
600	1,100	1,700	2,200	2,800	3,400	4,000	4,500	5,000	5,600	6,200	6,700	3,700

- "WTW Universe" includes all aided adults (exempt or non-exempt) as well as WTW sanctioned cases where the adult is not aided. Projected FY 2015-16 "WTW Universe" caseload is derived by subtracting the Safety Net and Child Only cases from the Total CalWORKs projected caseload.
- Time on CalWORKs 48-Month Clock used as proxy for cases who have reached their 24 Month Welfare-to-Work Services clock.
- Assumes 15 percent of the adults not receiving an extension will begin meeting the participation requirements, or receive an exemption, to maintain their grant. Assumes that 10 percent of the remaining adults will meet the participation requirements and have their grant restored after four months.
- The "full" caseload represents the total projected number of impacted cases assuming that the WTW 24-Month Clock runs consecutively and that all clocks started April 1, 2013. However, not all cases started the WTW 24-Month Clock at the same time and many clients will experience clock stoppers. The "phased" caseload represents an even distribution of impacted cases over a two year period accounting for these factors. The "full" grant reduction caseload represents approximately 5.5 percent of the WTW Universe.

CalWORKs WTW Activities and Hourly Requirements

		Adults' 48 Months On Aid	
	Prior Law	For 24 Months	After 24 Months
Hourly Participation Requirements <i>(total hours per week/core hours required)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single parent with child under 6 	32/20 core	20/0 core	20/20 core
	32/20 core	30/0 core	30/20 core
	35/20 core	35/0 core	35/30 core
WTW Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment activities¹ Work experience Community service On-the-job training (OJT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment activities Vocational education (12 month lifetime limit) Job search Job readiness activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment activities Work experience Community service OJT
Core Activities			
Non-Core Activities	<i>"Blendable" Activities²</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job skills training Adult basic education Satisfactory attendance in a Secondary school Barrier removal activities³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work experience Community service Job skills training Adult basic education Secondary school Barrier removal activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job skills training Adult basic education Satisfactory attendance in a secondary school
Time-Limited Core Activities⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocational education (12 month lifetime limit) 	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barrier removal activities Job search Job readiness assistance Vocational education (12 month lifetime limit)
Employment Services			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child care Supportive services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ✓

¹Employment activities include unsubsidized and subsidized employment, work study, supported work and transitional employment, and grant-based OJT.²These non-core activities were "blendable" activities that could be counted toward the core hourly requirement.³Barrier removal activities include mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence services.⁴Job search, job readiness, barriers removal activities are limited to four consecutive weeks, not to exceed six weeks in a 12-month period.

CalWORKs WTW Activities and Hourly Requirements Table Description

CalWORKs adults are required to participate in WTW activities as a condition of aid, unless exempt, until the maximum 48 months for CalWORKs assistance is reached. Once the 48-month time limit is reached for the adult, aid continues for eligible the child(ren) until the age of 18.

Prior Law- CalWORKs participation requirements before January 1, 2013:

Under previous law, there were weekly minimum participation requirements of 20 core and 32 total hours per week for single parents, and 20 core and 35 total hours per week for parents in two-parent families. Some non-core activities, such as job skills training, education directly related to employment, and barrier removal activities, could be 'blended' with core activities and counted toward the core requirement. Clients could participate in vocational education as a core activity for a lifetime maximum of 12 months.

Senate Bill 1041- CalWORKs participation requirements starting January 1, 2013:

During adults' 48 Months on Aid

For 24 Months- CalWORKs recipients are able to participate in any of the full array of CalWORKs WTW activities they need, consistent with an assessment, to become self-sufficient with no core hourly requirement. The 24 months are cumulative and may be used at any time during adults' maximum 48 months of CalWORKs assistance.

During the 24 months, clients must meet new CalWORKs minimum weekly hourly participation requirements. The new law reduced the hourly requirement from 32 to 30 hours per week for single parents and to 20 hours per week for single parents with a child under six.

After 24 Months- Unless otherwise exempt or having received an extension, CalWORKs recipients must meet CalWORKs federal standards, based on federal work requirements, in order to continue receiving aid. CalWORKs recipients can only participate in federally countable activities and must meet a weekly core and overall hourly requirement consistent with federal requirements.

CalWORKs federal standards allow for an additional 12 months of vocational education to be countable as a core activity. This provides up to three years of predominantly education-focused activities during the 48 months of aid.

Participation requirements remain at 30 or 20 hours per week for single parents, however 20 hours must then be in core activities. The core hourly requirement for two-parent families increased to 30 from 20 with the new law, with the overall 35-hour requirement maintained.